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CONFERENCE connection

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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 1, 2021

Welcome Rev. Kim Wood, our new Conference Minister!

by Ugena Whitlock, Southeast Conference Moderator

On behalf of the SEC Board of Directors, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Conference Minister, Rev. Kimberly Wood. We are so excited that Kim has been called to our conference! She comes to us after an extensive search and call process. Search committee members were from all across the Conference, and they worked in prayerful collaboration with the UCC National Setting. We on the Board were ecstatic when their work concluded and they introduced us to Kim. Many of you had the opportunity to attend a "meet and greet" with her in the summer, and earlier Conference Connections have included her video introduction and bio. I wanted to share an excerpt here:



"Kim is passionate about caring for all of God's creation, creating empowering spaces for the voices and gifts of those people who have been ignored and silenced, serving as an ally for people who are oppressed, and standing up, speaking out, and acting against systemic injustice and individual cruelty....As a pastor and teacher, she works, and encourages others to work, for God's Kingdom of equity and love..."

In these complex and troubling times, the Board of Directors shares in our gratitude for the gifts Kim brings to our conference after our long period of transition. We look forward to growing together in love and caring.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank Rev. Char Burch for her service as Transitional Conference Minister. Char's pastoral and leadership

gifts allowed the Board to have the space and time to settle and grow as we thoughtfully prepared to search and call our settled Conference Minister. Personally, I appreciate Char's guidance as I undertook the role of Moderator, which was completely new territory for me. She was patient and kind as she exemplified the invaluable traits of a leader.

Hello Southeast Conference UCC!

by Rev. Kim Wood, our NEW Conference Minister

It is so good to finally be here with you! I am looking forward to getting to know you, to building relationships, and to partnering in ministry together.

My husband, Ron, and I have relocated from northern Illinois to Huntsville, AL, and we are slowly, but surely, settling into our new living space. It is always an interesting process to me, moving from one place to another. You bring all your stuff – the necessities and the possibilities and the beloved items that bring comfort or hold meaning from where you were and try to fit it all into the new dwelling. The necessities get unpacked first – it is usually fairly easy to assign them their spots. And then you begin the work of fitting all the other pieces, which used to go a certain way in specific rooms, together in this new habitation. I've learned that, for me, this is not a quick and simple process. I have to sit in the space, move around in it, listen and let it speak to me. In its time, with love and attentiveness and some creativity, what started as a house becomes home.



I began my time as your Conference Minister this past Monday, September 27th, by spending the day with Transitional Minister Rev. Char Burch and Associate Conference Minister Rev. Heather Fosburgh. The opportunity to spend the day with both of them together was such a gift, and I am grateful for their willingness to travel to Huntsville to share information, answer questions, and provide such a wonderful starting point for me as we start this new season of ministry in the SECUCC. I send out a special thank you to Spirit of the Cross Church in Huntsville for providing room for us to meet comfortably and safely!

Now begins the process of tending to the necessities, and at the same time sitting in this collective space of ministry settings and amazing people called the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, moving about in it, and, most importantly, listening as you speak to me. I look forward to

hearing your thoughts, your ideas, your concerns, and your stories. I invite your open and honest sharing. And I pray that, together, we will continue to live into the vision that God has for the Southeast Conference, the UCC, and the Church Universal.

I cannot express enough how truly blessed I feel to begin our time together stepping onto the strong foundation built during your time of ministry with Char, and others before her. Nor can I tell you how thankful I am to be part of such an incredible staff team. I ask that you hold them all in your prayers as we move into this next season of ministry together.

As a youth, one of the highlights was when we circled up and passed the peace to one another. I realize that, due to the pandemic, the rise in cases, and the Delta variant, we can't all meet and gather together in the ways that we might otherwise do to connect and get started. And I know that, for many, passing the peace in the close, physical ways we used to be able to is sorely missed. And so, Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, as we begin this journey together, I send you these words that are so dear to me:

May the PEACE of Christ be with you, and KNOW that you are loved.

News from the Conference Office

From the Generosity Coordinator

Greetings all, this is a gentle reminder that the deadline for submitting your applications for Cycle Two, 2021 *Transforming Churches, Transforming Lives* grants is October 25, 2021. The application is [available on our website](#), please READ and follow the instructions before submitting your application. Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me directly. This grant has been an invaluable resource to so many of our churches as we transition to a new normal long before, and during this pandemic.



Please allow us to help you as we continue to "BE THE CHURCH" that we are called be...not just during this pandemic, but everyday and in every way!

We so appreciate all the ways that you continue to support this ministry in your giving, your love and your deeds. No gift is too small and your sacrifice

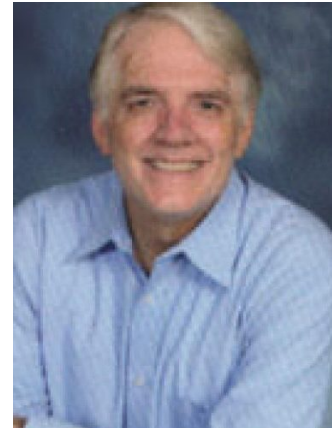
is so appreciated.

Blessings, as we continue to journey...TOGETHER,
Min. Carrole Moss

Installation of Rev. Scott Cox at Central Atlanta

On October 10, 2021, Rev. Scott Cox will be installed as the Senior Minister at Central Congregational UCC in Atlanta at their 11:00 am worship service. There will be an opportunity to join either in person or online for this Rev. Scott's service of installation.

Scott Cox began his ministry at Central Congregational United Church of Christ Atlanta on October 1, 2020. Prior to coming to Central, Scott was minister at Christian Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations in Kentucky and Indiana.



Scott received a B.A. from Georgetown College, Georgetown, KY; an M.Div. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY; and a D.Min. from Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY. Scott has two adult daughters.

RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/qXBBE2PWW7PWJ5NXA>

Clergy Zoom Connections for October

- **An Hour of Conversations and Prayer**
Tuesday, October 5, 12, 19, 26 - 11:00 a.m. Eastern (10:00 a.m. Central); Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/479440102>
- **Live Harp Meditations for Ministers**
Thursday, October 21 - 12:00 p.m. Eastern (11:00 Central)
20 minutes of meditation with Celtic harp. Silent prayer and reflection following if desired, facilitated by Rev. Jean Norton. (For questions or to sign up for individual Therapeutic Harp Sessions, contact Jean at HeartSongJean@gmail.com.)
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96976838422>
- **Especially for Specialized Ministers**
Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 9:30 a.m. Eastern (8:30 a.m. Central)
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/354744689>

Re-Opening of Churches – Conversation for all Church Leaders

- **Monday, October 25 - 7 pm Eastern/6 pm Central**

Many churches are moving to in-person worship. This is an opportunity to learn about each other's experiences, recommendations, etc. We invite all Moderators, Church Leaders, and Clergy to be part of the conversation. [REGISTER](#)



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2021. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

Week of October 3

- Holy Trinity Community Church; Nashville, Tennessee
- Martha Sue Carter
- Joseph Ingle
- Kenneth Samuel
- Clarice Mitchell
- Jane Acuff

Week of October 10

- Peace Congregational UCC; Clemson, South Carolina
- Retired Servants Event; Blowing Rock Conference Center
- Jennifer Sanders

- Lyle Weible
- Nancy Elsenheimer
- Salome As-Salaam

Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Montgomery AL; First Congregational, Savannah GA; Trinity Congregational, Athens AL; Rush Memorial, Atlanta GA; United Church of Cookeville, Cookeville TN; Holy Trinity Community Church, Nashville TN; First United Church, Belvidere TN; Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill TN

News from the Wider Church

UCC National Disaster Ministries Presents, “Staying Sane in Today’s World of Covid-19: Increasing your Resiliency”

“This new normal doesn’t feel normal.”

A practical and helpful webinar dealing with ministry, stress, and self-care in today's world. Focus points include assessing your current stress impacts, implementing self-care resources in multiple arenas, strengthening resiliency, and caring for those around you. The course length is 90 minutes – 2 hours (depending on group discussions.) It is taught by Chris Farrand and Rev. Fred Meade. [Learn more and register by October 4, 2021!](#)

News from our Local Congregations



New Date for Back Bay Mission Trip

by Mary Ruth

Pleasant Hill Community Church in Pleasant Hill TN sent a group of 'seniors' to Back Bay Mission in 2017 and had plans to send another group in 2020 but due to the pandemic postponed it to 2021 and then again postponed. The **new date is Nov 13-19, 2022**, for a Mission Trip of about 20 people for service at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi MS. Others in the Southeast Conference are welcome to sign up and join in for the 2022 trip. All ages are welcome and recruitment for 2022 Mission Trippers will begin in January 2022. The trip costs about \$250 per person for the weeklong experience.

In November, the 2021 mission trippers will be sending \$1,750.00 in collected trip deposits to Back Bay Mission. The funds are being donated to help offset the group's absence at BBM in November 2021. 2021 potential trippers included Pleasant Hill Community Church members and friends: Vivian Adzaku, Mary Ruth, Sue Peebles, Hugh Thomforde, Phil & Vickie Nevius, Rebecca Kilmer, Betsy Masterson, Linda Persohn, and Elaine Ahrendt. Also, the 2021 mission trip group included Hannah Mays from Cookeville UCC in Cookeville TN and Cindy Crocker from Safe Harbour Family UCC in Clinton MS.

Trainings and Conferences



Healthy Boundaries for Retired Ministers

Retired ministers who do not serve as pastors in a local church but who may preach periodically, officiate at weddings, funerals, etc. now have the option to attend a special Healthy Boundaries Course focused on issues faced by retired ministers. The course fulfills the four-year requirement for

Southeast Conference clergy. (Fee is \$35). The course will be held in-person on two dates:

- Wednesday, October 6 at Central Congregational, Atlanta; 11 am to 3 pm Eastern / 10 am to 2 pm Central
- Wednesday, October 20 at Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN; 11 am to 3 pm Eastern / 10 am to 2 pm Central

Conference Calendar

October 2 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm EDT

[Southern Region Women's Retreat](#)

October 5 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

October 6 @ 11:00 am - 3:00 pm EDT

[Healthy Boundaries for Retired Ministers](#)

October 10 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Installation of Rev. Scott Cox](#)

October 11 - October 13

[Retired Servants Retreat](#)

October 12 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

October 19 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

October 20 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm CDT

[Healthy Boundaries for Retired Ministers](#)

October 21 @ 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm EDT

[Live Harp Meditations for Ministers](#)

October 25 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EDT

[Re-Opening of Churches – Conversation for all Church Leaders](#)

View the **full calendar** of events online: <https://www.secucc.org/events/>

Contact Us

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